

USK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 1969

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SURVEYOR & PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

COUNCIL OFFICES,  
BRIDGE STREET,  
USK, MON.  
NP5 1XB



USK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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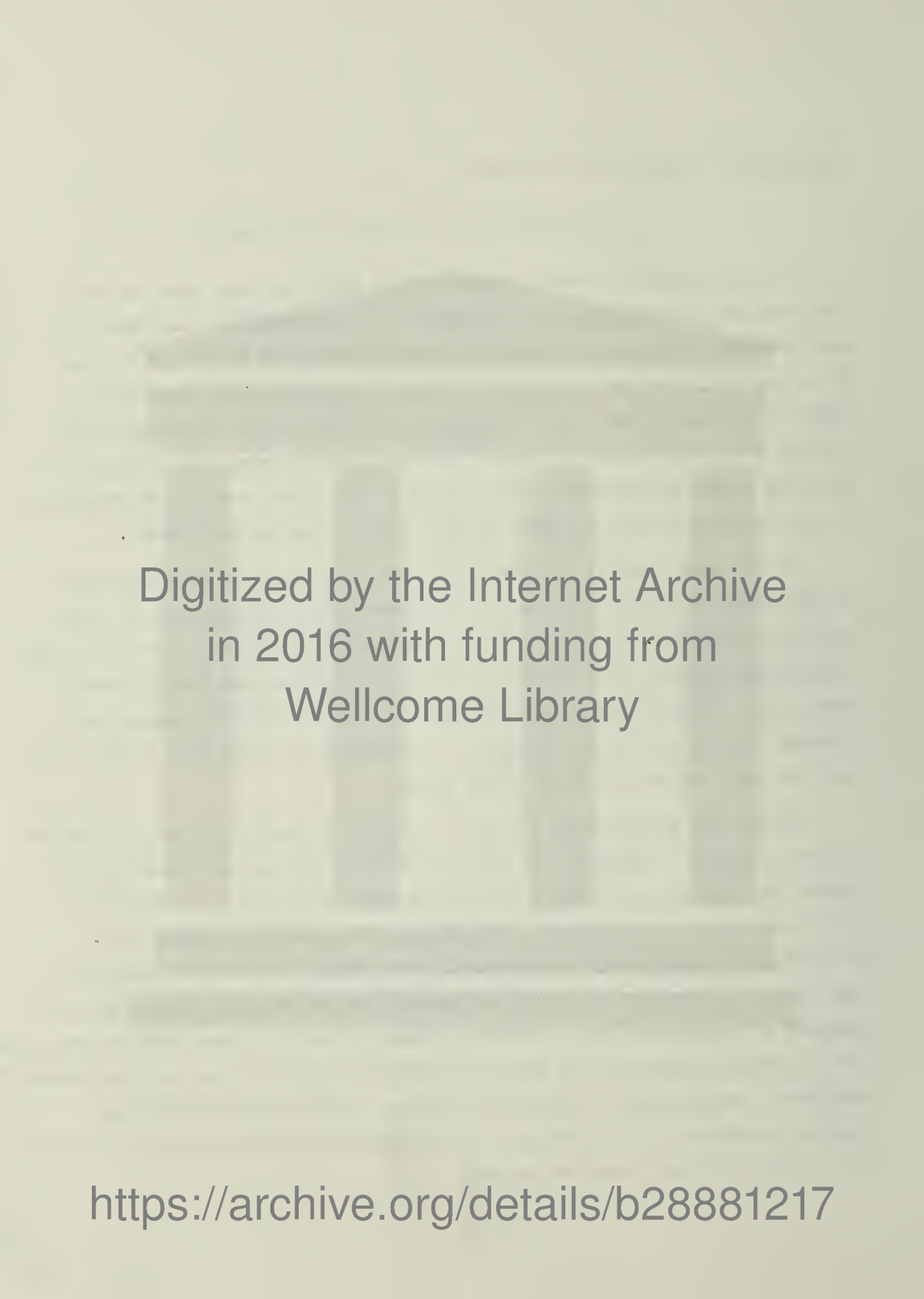
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Life begins at 40 - True or False?

It is difficult to say categorically what life was like in the past but from our mortality statistics one can truthfully say that for the Victorian or the Edwardian, life very often came to an end at 40. It is doubtful whether it was ever true to say that life began at 40. Women on average, live longer than men, but there was a time when both men and women at the lower end of the social scale were often worked to an early death by drudgery, while women at the other end of the scale went to an early grave from boredom through lack of useful employment.

At the same time it is true to say that by bringing more and more of the one-time killer diseases under control, our expectation of life has been increased. In spite of all the hazards which confront us on this overcrowded earth, it is certainly safer to be alive now than it was 50 years ago. Without doubt, our standard of health has been raised and although it may not be the passport to happiness it does help people to be more and more active in their later years.

Today, the middle-aged add up to roughly a quarter of the population of this country. Naturally we still have our problems associated with health in middle-age. Many of these are largely social in origin and vary according to environment, occupation, sex, marital status, etc. For example, a man doing heavy manual work begins to feel the strain and may find it necessary to modify or change his job at this time. The more skilled or executive type is gaining promotion and is faced with competition and increased anxiety. The married woman often has to cope with adolescent children, ageing parents and the menopause. The unmarried woman has special problems in that she has no-one behind her and is dependent on her own efforts for her economic safety.



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Of course, various tensions are part and parcel of doing any job efficiently. The body will normally respond to stress in a well organised way. The blood pressure is slightly raised and the heart beats a little faster. Muscles tense and digestion switches off temporarily. When the crisis passes and the pressure eased the reverse occurs. Troubles come when we get "hooked" on stress but this is a preventable disease and can be counteracted by the proper use of leisure.

The over forties have lived through a period of unparalleled material, social and cultural change. A notable feature of this period has been an increase in leisure time for which most of us appear to have been ill prepared. It seems that only a minority have made any use of the available resources to remedy this defect, the majority accepting passively the ministrations of mass media for communication and entertainment.

It is in middle-age that some thought should also be given to the planning of the third period in life culminating in the new leisured years that may be as long as childhood and adolescence put together. Nobody would dream of going in to bat blindfold. Those who will have studied the game will be better equipped for this increased leisure. It is true to say that life can only be understood backwards but must be lived forwards.





# VITAL STATISTICS - 1969

Area .. .. .	655 acres
Estimated Population .. .. .	2,220
Number of inhabited houses .. .. . (according to Rate Book on 31.12.69)	690
Rateable Value .. .. .	£53,339
1d Rate .. .. .	£202

1969

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Legitimate	15	13	28
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTAL .....	16	15	31
<u>LIVE BIRTH RATE</u>	<u>USK</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>ENGLAND &amp; WALES</u>
per 1000 population	14.0	16.58	16.3
Comparability Factor			= 0.99
Adjusted live birth rate Usk	=	14.0 x 0.99	= 13.9
" " " " County			= 16.91
Ratio of local adjusted Birth Rate to National Rate			= 0.85

<u>STILL-BIRTHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
<u>STILL-BIRTH RATE</u>	<u>USK</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>ENGLAND &amp; WALES</u>
per 1000 live & still-births	31.0	16.17	13.0

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
All Causes	7	9	16
<u>Death rate per 1000 population</u>	<u>USK</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>ENGLAND &amp; WALES</u>
	7.2	12.5	11.9
Comparability Factor			= 1.27
Adjusted death rate Usk	=	7.2 x 1.27	= 9.1
" " " " County			= 11.9
Ratio of local adjusted death rate to National Rate			= 0.77

<u>DEATHS FROM CANCER</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	1	2	3
<u>DEATHS FROM LUNG CANCER</u>	-	-	-

THE HISTORY OF THE

1781

1782

1783

1784

1785

1786

1787

1788

1789

1790

1791

1792

1793

1794

1795

1796

1797

1798

1799

1800

1801

1802

1803

1804

1805

1806

1807

1808

1809

1810

DEATHS DUE TO PREGNANCY, CHILD-BIRTH, ABORTION

= 0

Maternal Mortality RateUSKCOUNTY

(Rate per 1000 live &amp; still-births)

-

0.34

INFANT MORTALITYInfant Mortality RateUSKCOUNTYENGLAND & WALES

(Rate per 1000 total live births)

-

20.73

18.0

Neonatal Mortality Rate - first 4 weeks

(Rate per 1000 total live births)

-

14.22

12.0

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate - under 1 wk

-

11.99

10.0

Perinatal Mortality

31.0

27.33

23.0

(Still-births & infant deaths under  
1 wk per 1000 total live & still-births)Perinatal Mortality in Usk Urban District1963 - 1969

Year	Number of First Week Deaths	Number of Still-births	Perinatal Maternity Rate
1969	-	1	31.0
1968	-	-	-
1967	1	1	49.0
1966	-	2	40.8
1965	-	-	-
1964	-	-	-
1963	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality 1963 - 1969Usk Urban District, Pontypool Rural District and Monmouthshire County

Year	Usk Urban District	Pontypool Rural District	Mon. County
1969	31.0	13.0	27.33
1968	-	31.0	25.0
1967	49.0	35.5	29.09
1966	40.8	28.27	33.87
1965	-	22.1	35.98
1964	-	26.5	37.25
1963	-	30.12	35.82



Causes of Death at different periods of life during 1969

Usk Urban District

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 Weeks & under 1 year	Age in years								
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+
Malignant Neoplasm - Intestine	M	-											
	F	2									1	1	
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung Bronchus	M	1								1			
	F	-											
Other Malignant Neoplasms	M	-											
	F	1										1	
Hypertensive Disease	M	1									1		
	F	-											
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	3									1		2
	F	2											2
Other forms of Heart Disease	M	-											
	F	1											1
Cerebrov- ascular Disease	M	1										1	
	F	-											
Other diseases of circulatory system	M	-											
	F	1											1
Pneumonia	M	-											
	F	2											2
All other accidents	M	1											1
	F	-											
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	7								1	2	1	3
	F	9									1	2	6

TUBERCULOSIS

NOTIFIED      Pulmonary    M O.   F O.      Non Pulmonary   M O.   F O.

DEATHS                      "      M O.   F O.      "              "      M O.   F O.



NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)

Classified according to age and sex

Disease	Sex	Age					TOTAL
		0-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 +	
Diphtheria	M						
	F						
Scarlet Fever	M						
	F						
Meningococcal Infection	M						
	F						
Measles	M	5	1			1	7
	F	1	4				5
Whooping Cough	M						
	F						
Poliomyelitis	M						
	F						
Dysentery	M						
	F						
Food Poisoning	M						
	F						
Erysipelis	M						
	F						





# VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

## Numbers Vaccinated

Age Group	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Under 1yr	22	18	15	13	3	-	-	-	1	-	2
1 - 4 yrs	2	5	4	42	5	11	22	19	11	11	22
5 - 14 yrs	1	2	5	212	2	-	-	1	1	3	3
15 yrs +	7	4	6	639	2	-	-	-	-	1	2
TOTAL	32	29	30	906	12	11	22	20	13	15	29

In addition, there were 6 revaccinations

## IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH

### Numbers Immunised

Age Group	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	
Under 5yrs	13	9	39	30	36	60	58	31	37	30	35	Diphtheria
	14	10	30	29	48	59	58	31	35	22	30	Whoop.
			29	30	40	55	62	1	37	30	38	Tetanus
5 - 14yrs	1	1	5	-	2	10	5	1	2	2	-	Diphtheria
		1	2	-	2	10	13	1	1	-	-	Whoop.
			2	2	3	15	11	18	6	6	8	Tetanus
TOTAL	14	10	44	30	38	70	63	32	39	32	35	Diphtheria
	14	11	32	29	50	69	71	32	36	22	30	Whoop.
			31	32	43	70	73	19	43	36	46	Tetanus

In addition, there were 31 "Booster" injections of Diphtheria, Prophylactis given, 13 of Whooping Vaccine and 43 of Tetanus.

Yours faithfully,

S.M. JAMES, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

# THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

CHICAGO, ILL., MAY 1, 1919

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to submit my report of the work carried out in the district during the year 1969.

### VISITS OF INSPECTION

Houses .....	139
Re-inspections .....	263
Improvement Grants .....	20
Council Houses .....	140
Nuisances .....	25
Premises where food is prepared and sold .....	165
Factories and Workshops .....	15
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Street Lighting .....	37
Cattle Market .....	70
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Shops, Offices and Railway Premises .....	137
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### OVERCROWDING

Very little overcrowding exists in Usk. This is due to the fact that persons living in apartments in overcrowded conditions have been given priority by the Council when council houses become vacant.



## CARAVANS

The only ground used for caravan purposes is the market car park which is used solely for the accommodation of caravans during the Annual Trinity Fair - water supply and sanitation are provided. Six caravans are permitted, under licence from the Council, to be stored on part of the grassed area at rear of the market.

## HOUSING

### 1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year

(i)	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health & Housing Acts.	81
	(b) Number of inspections made for its purpose	192
(ii)	Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	20

### 2. Remedy of defects during the year without serving Formal Notices

Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	19
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### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

#### (i) Proceedings under the Housing Act 1957

(a) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	-
(b) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	-
(c) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	-
(d) No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notice	-

#### (ii) Proceedings under the Public Health Act

(a) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	-
(b) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice	
(i) By owners	-
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	-



## WATER SUPPLY

The Town was served by the Pontypool Water Company's Undertaking and with the exception of four houses, which are distant from the mains, all houses have piped water supply. Twenty-four samples have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratories and were found to be satisfactory in all cases.

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The majority of houses in the district are connected to the Town sewers. The sewage disposal plant deals with all sewage and is operating successfully, though very regular attention is required at the pumping station in connection with pump maintenance, and also some difficulty is caused with the removal and disposal of sewage sludge. Weather conditions have a bearing on our difficulties in sludge drying and with the limited provision of sludge beds it is sometimes impossible to empty tanks at sufficiently frequent periods.

## RODENT CONTROL

The sewers are treated twice a year and no heavy infestations have been reported.

The sewage disposal works and refuse tip are regularly treated to keep any infestation to a minimum. During the year 21 other properties were inspected and treated for minor infestations.

## FOOD HYGIENE

In general the premises are satisfactory and a good standard is maintained.

### FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

No. of Premises - 35

Trade & No.	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16	No. of Premises to which Reg. 19 applies	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Licensed Premises 12	12	12	12
Cafes 2	2	2	2
Fruit and Veg. 3	3	3	3
General Grocers 9	9	9	9
Sweets & Tobacco 5	5	-	-
Butchers 4	4	4	4
Totals 35	35	30	30





SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT 1957 - Slaughter of Animals

(Amendment Act)

There is only one slaughterhouse in the area.

Number of carcasses inspected and condemned

	Sheep/Lambs	Pigs	Calves	Cattle
Number killed	548	167	1	67
Number inspected	548	167	1	67
% Inspected	100	100	100	100

All Diseases (except Tuberculosis)

Whole carcass condemned ..... Nil

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..... 37

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcass condemned ..... Nil

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..... Nil

No. of visits for meat inspection ..... 101

HOUSING - IMPROVEMENTS

During the year the Council approved two Standard Grant applications and one Discretionary Grant.

Every encouragement is given to owners of suitable properties to improve and modernise their houses. The raising of the general level of older housing accommodation is well worthwhile.

BUILDING REGULATIONS

40 plans were submitted during the year. These were made up as follows: new houses 7, improvements 9, garages 18 and other buildings 6. This compares with a figure of 40 for 1968, 43 for 1967, 44 for 1966 and 41 for 1965.



## PETROLEUM LICENSING

There are four premises in the district where petroleum spirit is stored. Eight visits to these premises were made during the year. Installations are satisfactory.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection is in operation and is carried out on behalf of the Council by the Pontypool Rural District Council.

All tipping is carried out at the tip on the outskirts of the town. The conditions of the tip have improved considerably due to the hiring of a bulldozer. A certain amount of soil was available for cover during the year under review and I am pleased to report that the position improved considerably during this year. Areas of the tip which had been covered were seeded and most of the enclosure can now be regularly mown with the Council's tractor-drawn mower.

## FACTORIES ACT

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(1) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4,6, are to be enforced by the Local Authority	4	6	-	-
(2) Factories not included in above in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	7	17	-	-
(3) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	11	23	-	-



FACTORIES ACT

2. Cases in which defects were found.

NUMBERS OF DEFECTS

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to by H.M.I.	Prosecutions
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)</u>				
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	1	-	-

Outworkers ... Nil

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I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council and my fellow Officers for the help and co-operation I have received during the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

G.V.R. LEE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.  
Surveyor & Public Health Inspector.





